



Office of the Attorney General  
State of Texas

DAN MORALES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

September 27, 1994

Mr. Anthony C. Grigsby  
Executive Director  
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

OR94-595

Dear Mr. Grigsby:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 26924.

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission received an open records request for certain records that you contend may be withheld from the public pursuant to the Open Records Act, section 552.103(a) of the Government Code. To secure the protection of section 552.103(a), a governmental body must demonstrate that requested information "relates" to a pending or reasonably anticipated judicial or quasi-judicial proceeding. Open Records Decision No. 551 (1990). In this instance you have made the requisite showing that the requested information relates to reasonably anticipated litigation for purposes of section 552.103(a). The requested records may therefore be withheld.

In reaching this conclusion, however, we assume that the opposing party to the anticipated litigation has not previously had access to the records at issue; absent special circumstances, once information has been obtained by all parties to the litigation, *e.g.*, through discovery or otherwise, no section 552.103(a) interest exists with respect to that information. Open Records Decision Nos. 349, 320 (1982). If the opposing parties in the anticipated litigation have seen or had access to any of the information in these records, there would be no justification for now withholding that information from the requestor pursuant to section 552.103(a). We also note that the applicability of section 552.103(a) ends once the litigation has been concluded. Attorney General Opinion MW-575 (1982); Open Records Decision No. 350 (1982).

Because case law and prior published open records decisions resolve your request, we are resolving this matter with this informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kay H. Guajardo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kay" being more prominent.

Kay H. Guajardo  
Special Assistant Attorney General  
Open Government Section

KHG/rho

Ref.: ID# 26924

cc: Mr. Mark Hudgins  
Southwestern Recycling Company  
405 Third Avenue  
Mansfield, Texas 76063